

February 5, 1971

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

S 891

S. 625. A bill for the relief of Lugarda Iosoya Damian-Ruiz; and

S. 626. A bill for the relief of Werner Alfred Thanner; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. METCALF:

S. 627. A bill to repeal the provisions of the Federal Power Act which exempt from Federal Power Commission regulation the issuance of securities by public utilities subject to certain State regulation; to the Committee on Commerce.

By Mr. EASTLAND:

S. 628. A bill for the relief of Anthony Gloriosi; and

S. 629. A bill for the relief of Chen-Pai Miao; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JACKSON:

S. 630. A bill to provide for the cooperation between the Secretary of the Interior and the States with respect to the future regulation of surface mining operations, and for other purposes; and

S. 631. A bill declaring a public interest in the open beaches of the Nation, providing for the protection of such interest, for the acquisition of easements pertaining to such seaward beaches and for the orderly management and control thereof; to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

(The remarks of Mr. JACKSON, when he introduced the bills, appear below under the appropriate headings.)

By Mr. JACKSON (for himself, Mr. ALLOTT, Mr. CHURCH, Mr. GRAVEL, Mr. JORDAN of Idaho, Mr. MOSS and Mr. STEVENS):

S. 632. A bill to amend the Water Resources Planning Act (79 Stat. 244) to include provision for a national land use policy by broadening the authority of the Water Resources Council and river basin commissions and by providing financial assistance for statewide land use planning; to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

(The remarks of Mr. JACKSON when he introduced the bill appear below under the appropriate heading.)

By Mr. ALLOTT (for himself and Mr. DOMINICK):

S. 633. A bill for the relief of James E. Fry, Junior, and Margaret E. Fry; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ALLOTT:

S. 634. A bill for the relief of Michael D. Manemann; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ALLOTT (for himself, Mr. BIBLE, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. DOMINICK, Mr. BENNETT, and Mr. MOSS):

S. 635. A bill to amend the Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970; to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

(The remarks of Mr. ALLOTT when he introduced the bill appear below under the appropriate heading.)

By Mr. CASE (for himself and Mr. MONTOYA):

S. 636. A bill to permit immediate retirement of certain Federal employees; to the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service.

(The remarks of Mr. CASE when he introduced the bill appear below under the appropriate heading.)

S. 604, S. 605, AND S. 606—INTRODUCTION OF BILLS TO CORRECT THE INEQUITIES AFFECTING RETIRED CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES

Mr. MONTOYA. Mr. President, I am introducing legislation to provide an increase in the annuities of civil service retirees and their survivors. We are all aware of the many studies done in recent years by the Social Security Administration and the Government Accounting Office. It is interesting to note that the common conclusion of all

these studies and investigations show that the major problem encountered by the elderly is inadequate income. All of us in this Chamber are aware of the many hours of discussion given in the final days of the 91st Congress to increasing benefits under social security. I feel that it should be pointed out that the majority of civil service annuitants are not covered by social security, but rely solely on their civil service annuities for retirement income. The financial needs of these retirees are no different than those of social security recipients, and it is only fair that similar attention and action be given to increasing civil service annuities.

Of an approximate 997,000 retired Federal employees and survivors, some 276,000 receive annuities of less than \$100 per month, and about 515,000 receive less than \$200 per month. Using a poverty level income of \$3,000 per annum, there are presently 619,000 or more than 60 percent of these former Government workers and survivors living in poverty.

No one needs to be reminded of the ever increasing cost of living, which steadily reduces the purchasing power of everyone, but especially those on fixed retirement incomes, often to the point of putting them in dire financial need. My bill would provide some assistance by granting the greatest percentage increases to those with the present lowest annuities, putting the money where it is most desperately needed. Many of these people retired a number of years ago when salaries were much lower and the retirement computation formula was much less liberal than it is today. The small annuities their years of service produced are not adequate to maintain an acceptable standard of living in today's economy.

S. 605, the second bill I introduce excludes the first \$5,000 of civil service retirement annuity from gross income under Internal Revenue Code of 1954. Under present law, social security pensions and railroad retirement benefits are exempted from income tax payment.

The same treatment should be accorded at least a portion of civil service annuities.

S. 606, the third bill I introduce provides minimum annuities under the civil service retirement law. My bill would guarantee a monthly annuity to a single person of \$100 per month, and \$200 per month for annuitants with a spouse or dependents. If such guarantees are awarded social security beneficiaries, like treatment should be granted civil service annuitants.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore (Mr. METCALF). The bills will be received and appropriately referred.

The bills, introduced by Mr. MONTOYA, were severally read twice by their titles and referred as follows:

S. 604. A bill to increase annuities payable under the provisions of title 5, United States Code, relating to civil service retirement; to the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service.

S. 605. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 to provide that the first \$5,000 received as civil service retirement annuity shall be excluded from gross income, to the Committee on Finance.

S. 606. A bill to amend the Civil Service Retirement Act, as amended, to provide minimum annuities for employee annuitants and spouse survivor annuitants; to the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service.

S. 607 AND S. 608—INTRODUCTION OF BILLS ENTITLED "UTILITY CONSUMERS' COUNSEL AND INFORMATION ACT OF 1971" AND "INTERGOVERNMENTAL TRANSPORTATION CONSUMERS' COUNSEL AND INFORMATION ACT OF 1971," RESPECTIVELY

Mr. METCALF. Mr. President, I introduce for appropriate reference two bills designed to provide information and counsel which the public and regulators need in their dealings with large public service corporations. They are: The Utility Consumers' Counsel and Information Act of 1971, and the Transportation Consumers' Counsel and Information Act of 1971.

The first bill was the subject of 21 days of hearings before the Senate Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Relations in 1969. Title 1 of the bill, which deals with counsel, includes all the changes made by the subcommittee during its five markup sessions on the bill (S. 607) during the 91st Congress. Title 1, as now introduced, was both improved and approved by the subcommittee.

Title 2 of the bill is identical to the markup version presented to the subcommittee by staff, following the hearings and consultation between majority and minority staff. The addition and deletion of reporting requirements reflect the recommendations made by witnesses. Their testimony, in the seven volumes of hearings on S. 607, is a useful reference for those who wish to familiarize themselves with the legislation, as is the summary of the hearings by the subcommittee chairman (Mr. MUSKIE) which appears in the February 26, 1970, CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, beginning on page S2449.

The second bill I am introducing today, the Transportation Consumers' Counsel and Information Act of 1971, is identical to S. 4588, which I introduced on December 16, 1970. This bill is similar in concept to the utility consumers' bill. The need for the transportation consumers' bill, especially as regards the railroad industry and the Interstate Commerce Commission—or its successor—is elaborated in my December 16 remarks, beginning on page S20373.

Mr. President, these two bills are designed to give meaning to two of the consumer rights enunciated or endorsed by Presidents Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon. They are the right to be informed and the right to be heard.

At present it is difficult and in some cases impossible for users or regulators of utility and transportation services to obtain detailed basic information about electric, gas, telephone, rail, and airline companies. By basic information I mean: Who owns the company? Who works for it? Where does its money go? What are its policies? Law enforcement, in anti-trust as well as rate and service matters, depend on timely and full answers to such questions.